

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillor Hunter</i>
2.	Declarations of Interests	<i>Nil</i>
	'In Committee' (Item 3)	
3.	Update on the Implementation of Recommendations Contained within the Extraordinary Audit Report	<p><i>That Council notes the updates to the Action Plan and progress to date on the implementation of the Recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>That Council notes the appointment of Elma Murray as independent advisor.</i></p> <p><i>That Council writes to the Department to seek an extension on Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5 until 28 February 2023.</i></p> <p><i>That Council schedules an additional monthly Special Council Meeting on 16 January 2023 and 20 February 2023 in order to update Members with continued progress and present the final reports.</i></p> <p><i>That Council notes the various expenditure required for the delivery and implementation of the recommendations listed within this report as per paragraph 3.6.</i></p>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON
MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (R), Fielding (R), Hillis (C),
Knight-McQuillan (R), McKeown (R), S McKillop (R),
McLean (R), A McQuillan (R)

Councillors Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callaghan (R),
Chivers (R), Holmes (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (R),
McCorkell (R), McGurk (R), MA McKillop (R), Mc Mullan
(R), C McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), P McShane (C),
Mulholland (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (C),
Schenning (R), Scott (R), Watton (C), Wilson (R)

Officers Present : A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance : E Murray, Independent Advisor (R)

A Lennox, ICT Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

Key – **C** = Attended in the Chamber
 R = Attended Remotely

The Director of Environmental Services undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Hunter.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland
Seconded by Councillor Quigley and

AGREED – that Council move ‘*In Committee*’.

The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

*** Alderman Knight McQuillan joined the meeting at 7.06pm**

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded

The Mayor welcomed the Independent Advisor and invited her to give an introduction.

The Independent Advisor informed Elected Members that she was delighted to be working with Council. The Independent Advisor informed Elected Members that her work with Council focused on good governance; putting communities at the heart of good governance. Since leaving full time employment the Independent Advisor has been a Member of the Accounts Commission for Scotland which focuses on the Audit of Local Government; the focus is not only on financial audit but also best value; it looks at the duty of best value for Councils and how they go about providing services to local areas. Her role in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to provide support and challenge for the implementation team; to provide support and advice to Elected Members and to provide reassurance to the Department for Communities on the approach and process Council has gone through to progress the recommendations from the Extraordinary Audit.

3. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT REPORT

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Environmental Services.

Purpose of Report

The report updates Council in relation to the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations as contained within the Extraordinary Audit Report.

Recommendation(s)

The Council is committed to further improving the weaknesses identified in the extraordinary audit report and acknowledges the oversight of the Department. **It is recommended** that:

- 4.1 That Council notes the updates to the Action Plan and progress to date on the implementation of the Recommendations.
- 4.2 That Council notes the appointment of Elma Murray as independent advisor.

- 4.3 That Council writes to the Department to seek an extension on Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5 until 28 February 2023.
- 4.4 That Council schedules an additional monthly Special Council Meeting on 16 January 2023 and 20 February 2023 in order to update Members with continued progress and present the final reports.
- 4.5 That Council notes the various expenditure required for the delivery and implementation of the recommendations listed within this report as per paragraph 3.6.

* **Councillor C McQuillan joined the meeting at 7.14pm**

In response to questions from Councillor Mulholland the Director of Environmental Services advised he would come back to all Councillors with clarification regarding delivery of an evening session of the Fraud Training being provided.

* **Councillor Schenning joined the meeting at 7.17pm**

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman McLean

- That Council accept the recommendations outlined in the report
- 4.1 That Council notes the updates to the Action Plan and progress to date on the implementation of the Recommendations.
- 4.2 That Council notes the appointment of Elma Murray as independent advisor.
- 4.3 That Council writes to the Department to seek an extension on Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5 until 28 February 2023.
- 4.4 That Council schedules an additional monthly Special Council Meeting on 16 January 2023 and 20 February 2023 in order to update Members with continued progress and present the final reports.
- 4.5 That Council notes the various expenditure required for the delivery and implementation of the recommendations listed within this report as per paragraph 3.6.

Councillor P McShane welcomed the appointment of the Independent Advisor and the Independent Consultant stating that their expertise was unquestionable; that Council needed to build on a solid foundation; he stated the Council is going nowhere as it is presently being run and directed by those identified in the extraordinary audit. Councillor P McShane advised a barrier has been in place that prevents those individuals from involvement in the Extraordinary Audit but it has failed.

Councillor P McShane identified a number of areas where he believed that it has failed.

Councillor P McShane stated that he was glad to hear everyone would get a chance to speak to the Independent Advisor and the Independent Consultant.

The Mayor put the Motion to the Council to vote.
28 Members voted For; 1 Member voted Against; 2 Members Abstained.
The Mayor declared the Motion carried.

RESOLVED –

- 4.1 That Council notes the updates to the Action Plan and progress to date on the implementation of the Recommendations.
- 4.2 That Council notes the appointment of Elma Murray as independent advisor.
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MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor P McShane
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – that Council move *‘In Public’*.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.33pm.

Mayor